

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 02137 041636Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 HA-05 /093 W

-----096767 051315Z /44

R 041500Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1476

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION GENEVA

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 2137

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, GB, DM

SUBJECT: BENIN SITUATION

REF: LIBREVILLE 2119 AND PREVIOUS

1. LIBREVILLE DAILY L'UNION REPORTED FOLLOWING RE BENINESE:

A. AIR AFRIQUE FLIGHT "IN DIRECTION OF COTONOU" AUG 3

CARRIED 102 BENINESE.

B. AIR AFRIQUE FLIGHT TO LAGOS AUG 1 CARRIED 31

BENINESE IN LIEU OF HALF-DOZEN WHICH WAS REPORTED EARLIER.

C. SPECIAL DC-8 FLIGHT HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR AUG 5

FOR THOSE WHO CAN PAY THEIR OWN WAY (AIRLINE AND DESTINATION
NOT STATE).

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 02137 041636Z

D. S/S CHRISTIAN VIELJEUX, WHICH HAS ALREADY TRANS-
PORTED ONE SHIPLOAD TO COTONOU, HAS RETURNED TO OWENDO
PORT.

E. S/S EMMANUEL DELMAS LEFT PORT GENTIL AUG 3 FOR
COTONOU CARRYING "467 PASSENGERS WITH THEIR FAMILIES"
(PROBABLY MEANS TOTAL OF 467 PASSENGER). 2500 BENINESE
HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED AT ECOLE NATIONALE DE GENDARMERIE

AND NAVY BASE AT PORT GENTIL.

F. CENSUS OF BENINESE IN LIBREVILLE AS OF JULY 28 WAS 10,232. (FIGURE WAS FOLLOWED BY RE-STATEMENT OF CATEGORIES OF BENINESE NOT OBLIGED TO LEAVE, SUGGESTING THAT ACUTAL NUMBER OF THOSE DESIGNATED TO LEAVE IS LOWER.)

2. L'UNION DID NOT CARRY PROMISED TEXT OF FONMIN BONGO'S REMARK TO DIPLOMATS. IT DID HINT, HOWEVER, THAT GOG HAS RECEIVED "FAVORABLE RESPONSE" FROM COTONOU TO REQUEST FOR DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM LIBREVILLE TO COTONOU, AND THAT SUCH FLIGHTS BEGAIN WITH AUG 3 AIR AFRIQUE FLIGHT.

3. COMMENT: GOG MUST EITHER HAVE HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT WISDOM OF PUBLICIZING FONMIN'S MEETING WITH DIPLOMATS, AND PARTICULARLY HIS APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE, UNOR ITS MEDIA ARE EVEN SLOWER THAN USUAL IN GATHERING THEMSELVES TOGETHER. TELEVISION EVENING AUG 3 HAD TWO OR THREE DESULTORY SHOTS OF MEETING, BUT NO REPORTING OTHER THAN TO DENY GOG'S INVOLVEMENT IN JAN 1977 EVENTS AT COTONOU, AND INSISTANCE THAT KEREKOU IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENT STATE OF EVENTS. EVEN THAT DID NOT APPEAR IN AUG 4 L'UNION. THUS, CONTRARY TO MY ORIGINAL EXPECTATION, IT MAY WELL BE THAT DETAILS OF FONMIN'S MEETING HAVE NOT FILTERED TO OUTSIDE WORLD. I WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE IT IF DEPARTMENT WOULD LET ME KNOW WHETHER MEETING HAS BEEN REPORTED IN WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK PRESS.
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PAGE 03 LIBREV 02137 041636Z

TIENKEN

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